

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Explosion in Central Heating System in Warsaw	DATE DISTR.	31 May 1955
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The hot waste water from the Warsaw power station is being used for central heating instead of being emptied into the Vistula River. It is pumped through underground concrete pipes 70 cm. in diameter through the central residential districts. The pipes pass the Palace of Culture, Krucza Wlica Plac Konstytucji, and from there to the MDM residential quarter. 25X1
2. Although the system is unprofitable, the State Commission for Economic Planning (PKPG) issued strict orders to execute the project and to have it completed before Christmas of 1954. The pipes were laid on schedule, and a trial was made before Christmas with cold water under a pressure of 24 atmospheres, with satisfactory results. However, the water was not drained, and the ensuing frost caused the pipes to burst at the joints. There was a large-scale explosion near the Zeran power plant which scattered nearby windows, and both pipes and protecting walls burst in numerous other places.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")